



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD SUFFERS THIRD COMBAT FATALITY

HARTFORD, Conn., - Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, confirmed today, with much regret and sorrow, that a member of the 102d Infantry Battalion of New Haven, was Killed in Action (KIA) on December 15, 2006, during operations in Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Phaneuf Jr., 38, of Eastford, Conn., was killed when his armored vehicle struck an improvised explosive device (IED).

“It is very difficult to lose another great Soldier who answered the call to duty. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Phaneuf family and all our service members still on duty in Afghanistan and Iraq,” stated Martin.

Sgt. Felix Del Greco of Simsbury, was the first Connecticut National Guardsman killed in April 9, 2004 and Spec. Robert Hoyt of Ashford, was killed on December 11, 2004, both members of C Company, 102d Infantry Battalion of Bristol.

Del Greco and Hoyt were both killed when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device (IED) in Iraq.

The 102nd Infantry Battalion was alerted in October 2005, mobilized in January 2006 and departed Connecticut on January 7, 2006 for Ft. Bragg, N.C., for further training and validation. The battalion left Ft. Bragg on April 17, 2006 to Afghanistan.

(MORE)

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Currently, the Connecticut National Guard has 970 Soldiers and Airman deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Germany in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 102nd Infantry Battalion is scheduled to return home in the spring 2007.

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